A NEW SPECIES OF SMICRONYX FROM SASKATCHEWAN, AND SYNONYMICAL NOTES (COLEOPTERA : CURCULIONIDAE).

By L. L. Buchanan.

The species here described is the subject of a forthcoming biological paper.

Smicronyx utilis, new species.

Length 1.8–2.7 mm., width 0.8–1.2 mm. Elongate, sides of elytra subparallel; derm black or nearly so on mature specimens, the legs, antennae, and rostrum reddish to piceous; scales above contiguous to moderately overlapping, elliptical to ovate in general, but some much more slender (sublinear), the vestiture covering, at least in part, the elytral striae; vestiture above white, gray, or light brown, the color occasionally uniform, but on elytra often feebly mottled with brown, sometimes in such a way as to give the effect of faint, irregular, wavy bars; rostrum arcuate, without ventral notch at base, slender and subcylindrical in female, stouter and more thickened basally in male; antennal socket a little distad of middle in female, at about apical three-sevenths in male. Last tarsal segment long, one-half to three-fourths as long as rest of tarsus; claws large, connate basally (but not to middle). No prosternal sulcus.

Rostrum a little longer than head and prothorax together, dorsal transverse impression at base feeble, basal half or less shagreened (strongly so in male), and with setae and slender scales, which are prostrate or subprostrate except for the erect tuft on each side of middle at base; basal half of male rostrum with a lateral carina and, on dorsum, either a carina each side of middle (the median line itself sometimes appearing carinate) or only a feeble median carina, the apical portion more or less shiny, punctate, and with or without carinae; female rostrum longer, smoother, shinier, more finely punctate, basal portion sometimes with traces of carinae. First funicular segment stouter and longer than second, third and remaining segments each at least as long as wide; club elongate, sutures faint. Eyes separated beneath by about three-fourths length of second funicular segment. Head shagreened, dorsum with sparse to fairly dense, slender scales which are usually more or less iridescent. Prothorax nearly as long as wide, much narrower than elytra (in the proportion of about 3 to 5), sides moderately rounded, apical constriction rather long; pronotum feebly convex, normally almost covered by scales but, as seen on abraded specimens, densely punctate, the punctures denser mediobasally, where they usually coalesce here and there to form short, transverse grooves or rugosities. Elytral intervals subplanate, each with two or three irregular rows of broader scales and also a sparse median row of sublinear scales, the latter broadly arched in profile, and often appearing prostrate in dorsal view. Under side densely clothed with white scales, those on sides of thorax broader than either the dorsal scales or the scales on the abdomen; femora and tibiae with elliptical to sublinear scales and inclined setae; lower edges of tibiae with sparse, setiform spines which are darker and a little coarser on fore and middle legs; middle of metasternum, in posterior half, and middle of first and second abdominal sternites flattened or lightly concave, more concave in male; abdominal sternite 5 usually nearly flat. Median lobe of male genitalia

thinner than in many species of *Smicronyx* (fig. 9); internal sac contained within the median lobe, and with minute granules or asperities on portion next to median orifice and spines farther back (figs. 5 and 10).

Type locality.—Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, June 15, 1939.

Type.—Male, and paratypes, male and female, No. 54279, U. S. National Museum. Paratypes in Canadian National Collection, California Academy of Sciences, and Museum of Comparative Zoology; and in collection J. G. Rempel.

Described from 30 specimens received from Prof. J. G. Rempel, with the statement that the species attacks the noxious poverty weed, *Iva axillaris* Pursh.

There is often a noticeable, though not conspicuous, unevenness in the sizes, shapes and colors of the elytral scales, the larger and broader ones being paler, on the average, and tending to form clusters or short lines here and there. There is considerable variation in the shape of the prothorax, the pronotal sculpture, and the sculpture of the rostrum.

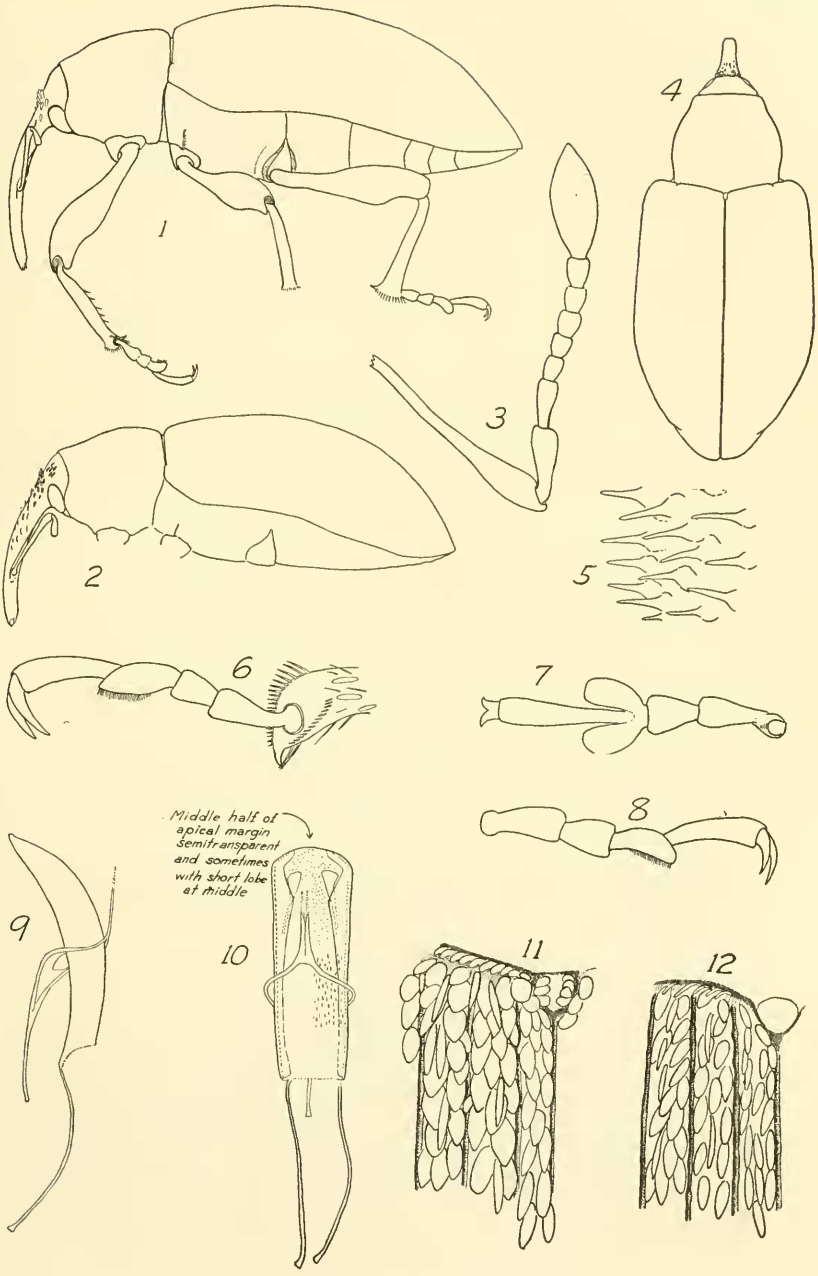
The sexes are not strongly differentiated externally, though when both are present they are rather easy to separate by the difference in the position of the antennal socket in conjunction with the other rostral differences—especially the stouter form, coarser sculpture, and more abundant vestiture of the male rostrum.

The following new synonymy can be recorded:

(*Smicronyx caseyi* Blatchley 1916) = *Smicronyx commixtus* Dietz. 1894.
(*Smicronyx connivens* Casey 1892) and (*Smicronyx spurcus* Casey 1892) = *Smicronyx vestitus* Leconte 1876.

I have seen the types or type sets of all these species excepting *caseyi* Blatch., and the identity of the last named seems beyond doubt.

S. commixtus Dtz. is recorded in literature and named in collections as either *vestitus* Lec. (a misidentification) or *caseyi* Blatch. *S. commixtus* Dtz. and *S. utilis*, n. sp., form a group characterized by the long tarsi and large tarsal claws, the latter not connate so far as middle (figs. 6, 7, and 8), the slender, curved rostrum (figs. 1 and 2), the absence of a notch on under surface of rostrum at base, the absence of a prosternal sulcus, and the relatively thin median lobe of the male genitalia (fig. 9). These characters, most of which are figured on the accompanying plate, seem not to occur in this combination in any other species. In male genital structure *commixtus* and *utilis* appear inseperable. They differ externally as follows:


1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
Middle half of apical margin semitransparent and sometimes with short lobe at middle
11
12

Elytra, rostrum, and legs red, the elytra frequently with a common sutural line and a vague scutellar area fuscous; dorsal scales narrower and apparently sparser (fig. 12) so that parts of the derm are plainly visible and some of the striae are traceable for the greater part of their length; tarsal claws larger (fig. 6); pronotal punctures not quite so dense. Kansas and Colorado to Montana and Idaho.....
commixtus Dietz.

Elytra black, the rostrum and legs reddish to piceous; dorsal scales denser, usually concealing most of the derm and obscuring at least in part (sometimes almost throughout) the striae (fig. 11); tarsal claws smaller (fig. 8); pronotal punctures denser, those mediobasally often coalescent to form short, transverse rugae. Saskatchewan.....
utilis, n. sp.

In addition the rostrum of *commixtus* is apparently slightly more slender and more finely sculptured. In certain specimens the vestiture is nearly or quite as abundant as in occasional examples of *utilis*, but the average difference in this respect, as brought out in the key and figures, is obvious in series.

Explanation of Plate.

Fig. 1. *Smicronyx utilis*, n. sp. Lateral outline of female.
Fig. 2. *Smicronyx utilis*, n. sp. Same of male.
Fig. 3. *Smicronyx utilis*, n. sp. Antenna of male.
Fig. 4. *Smicronyx utilis*, n. sp. Dorsal outline of male.
Fig. 5. *Smicronyx utilis*, n. sp. Spines of internal sac (greatly enlarged).
Fig. 6. *Smicronyx commixtus* Dietz. Fore tarsus.
Fig. 7. *Smicronyx utilis*, n. sp. Fore tarsus in dorsal view.
Fig. 8. *Smicronyx utilis*, n. sp. Fore tarsus in lateral view.
Fig. 9. *Smicronyx utilis*, n. sp. Male median lobe, lateral view.
Fig. 10. *Smicronyx utilis*, n. sp. Male median lobe, dorsal view.
Fig. 11. *Smicronyx utilis*, n. sp. Scutellar section of left elytron.
Fig. 12. *Smicronyx commixtus* Dietz. Scutellar section of left elytron.

NEW POLYDESMOID DIPLOPODS INTERCEPTED AT QUARANTINE.

By Ralph V. Chamberlin,
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The types of the new millipeds described in the present paper form part of miscellaneous diplopod material submitted to me for identification by Mr. Muesebeck of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. The specimens representing the four new forms were intercepted by inspectors at Honolulu, H. I., and Washington, D. C., on plants imported from Japan, Philippine Is., Ceylon and Jamaica, respectively. The types are in the author's collection at the University of Utah.